IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/520,080

Confirmation No. 2797

Applicant: Abdoulaye DOUCOURE et al.

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TC/AU: 1797

Examiner: Krishnan S. Menon

Docket No.: 440993

Customer No.: 23548

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner initial the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The I	Information Disclosure State	ment is being filed:				
	37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of a first Office Action or	owing time periods: (a) within three months of the filing ion other than a continued prosecution application under n three months of the date of entry of the national stage as of an international application; (c) before the mailing date the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action t for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.				
\boxtimes	37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of	ove, but before the mailing date of a final action under f Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that on in the application, and includes <i>one</i> of:				
	the Statement under below).	er 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)"				
	- or -					
	the fee of \$180 set	forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).				
	after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).					
	after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and within thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below). NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.					
Copie	s of the References					
	Copies of all of the referent herewith.	ces listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed				
\boxtimes	Copies of U.S. patents and Form 1449 are not enclose accompanying Form 1449	patent applications that are listed on the accompanying d herewith. Copies of other references identified on the are enclosed herewith.				
\boxtimes	concise explanation of rele English-language abstract, action by a foreign patent of	the English language, attached is an English translation, a wance, an English-language equivalent/patent, an or an English-language version of the search report or a counterpart foreign application indicating the by the foreign office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).				

Application No. 10/520,080			Information Disclosure Statement				
	A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.						
	The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:						
	U.S. APPLI		S	TATUS (check one)			
	I.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED		
1.							
2.							
3.							
	The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.						
Stater	nent under 37 CFR	1.704(d)					
	The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.						
Fees							
	No fee is owed by the applicant(s). Charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216 in the amount of \$180.00 (37 CFR 1.17(p)). (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose, unless submitted via EFS-Web.)						

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

 \boxtimes If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-1216. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose, unless submitted via EFS-Web.)

Instructions as to Overpayment

Credit Account No. 12-1216. Refund

Respectfully submitted,

No. 33,587

(eremy M) Jay, Reg. No. 33,5 LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER

700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, DC 20005-3960 (202) 737-6770 (telephone)

(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

JMJ/jj